

Appn No. 09/722,147
Amtd. Dated October 25, 2004
Response to Office action of September 9, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action has been carefully considered. The issues raised are traversed and addressed below with reference to the relevant headings and paragraph numbers appearing under the Detailed Action of the Office Action.

Claim Objections

In view of the Examiner's objection raised in paragraph 1 of the Official Action the claims have been revised substantially as requested.

The only exception to this is to amend claim 14 to refer to the sensor being operative to sense the coded data when the display device is positioned, in use, at least partially overlapping the substrate. This amendment will be discussed in more detail below.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

The Examiner has objected to the independent claim 14 on the basis of Wilz, Sr. et al and in view of Tsutsumoto et al. We have reviewed the Examiner's objections in detail and we respectfully submit that there are distinctions between the claim and the combined teaching of these documents.

Wilz, Sr. et al describes a device which only allows human interaction with electronic documents. This is achieved by having the system scan a barcode or URL provided on a substrate, and then using this to determine an electronic document, which in one example is an Internet page resulting from the URL link.

Thus, in Wilz, Sr. et al the information provided on the substrate is merely used to identify a document with which the user may interact. No interaction with the substrate, other than detection of the URL, ever occurs. In view of this, we respectfully submit that the information provided on the substrate does not constitute a human discernable interface surface.

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Furthermore, the visual information displayed on the device of Wilz, Sr. et al is an electronic document which is different to the URL provided on the substrate. Accordingly, the visual information presented on the device does not correspond to at least part of the human discernable interface provided on the substrate, as required by claim 14.

Furthermore, the display of visual information corresponding to at least part of the human discernable interface provided on the substrate is not taught or suggested by Tsutsumoto et al.

Thus, the combination of the prior art does not teach or suggest displaying a portion of a human discernable interface that is also provided on the substrate. This is a particularly advantageous arrangement as it allows a user to view part of the human discernable interface on the display, and then interact with this displayed version of the interface. Thus, for example, once the user is satisfied with the results of the interaction, such as the information supplied, the user can arrange for this to be added to the interface surface.

We therefore respectfully submit claim 14 is novel and inventive.

Additionally, given that the substrate of Wilz, Sr. et al is only ever used to direct the user to an electronic document, there is nothing to teach or suggest that it will be desirable to print on the substrate. In fact, it is clear from the specification that the substrates are intended merely to provide access to the respective electronic documents, and it would therefore be undesirable to modify the substrate as this may prevent the electronic document being retrieved.

Given that Wilz, Sr. et al does not describe an interface surface provided on a substrate, even if Wilz, Sr. et al and Tsutsumoto et al are combined, and a printer provided in the device of Wilz, Sr. et al, there is nothing to suggest that this should be used to allow a user to "*print markings on the substrate ... to interact with the part of the human discernable interface*", thereby providing further distinctions between claim 14 and the prior art.

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Furthermore, the claim has also been revised to clarify that the device for interacting is configured such that the sensor is operative to sense the coded data when the display device is positioned in use at least partly overlapping the substrate. This feature is clearly shown for example in Figure 27.

This is also not taught or suggested by the prior art. In particular, in the prior art documents the display is clearly separated from the substrate. This is shown for example in Figure 3 of Wilz, Sr. et al and also in Figure 36 of Danielson et al, in which it is clear that the display would have to be positioned remotely from the substrate in order to allow the scanning device to scan the substrate and detect any data provided thereon.

In the event that the Examiner is not willing to accept these arguments, we have also presented new claims 26 and 29 for consideration by the Examiner.

Claim 26 relates to the mechanism by which the user interface includes a touch-sensitive overlay and wherein the device for interacting prints markings from the substrate at a position aligned with a point at which the user touches the touch sensitive overlay. A basis for this can be found for example in Figure 27 where it is shown that handwriting on the display is printed within the corresponding field 242 at a position aligned at a point of contact between the stylus and the touch sensitive overlay.

Claim 27 clarifies that the device is configured to display visual information corresponding to at least part of the human discernable interface at a position aligned with the at least part of the human discernable interface on the substrate. This is clearly shown for example in Figures 12, 13, 25 or the like. This is also described for example on page 18, lines 1 to 4 of the specification.

These claims therefore clarify that in one example, the claimed system presents visual information, such as text, on the display in a manner such that it is aligned with the corresponding text on the substrate. Similarly, when interacting with the substrate, the markings are also presented at a point aligned with the point of interaction with the touch-

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sensitive overlay. This is not taught or suggested by the prior art, and makes using the device far more intuitive to use than the prior art systems. We therefore believe that these claims define further novel and inventive features.

Further distinctions are provided in claim 28 which relates to a device for interacting with an interface surface having a number of fields with the device being adapted to display at least one field and print markings in the field again as shown for example in Figure 27. Finally, claim 29 clarifies that the human discernable interface is a form. Again these features are not taught or suggested by the prior art.

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CONCLUSION

have been successfully traversed and addressed. The amendments do not involve adding any information that was not already disclosed in the specification, and therefore no new matter is added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims 14 to 16 and 19 to 29, and the application as a whole with these claims, are allowable, and a favourable reconsideration is therefore earnestly solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:



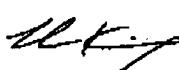
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